

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-7 and 9-13 are allowed. The features of allowable claim 3 have been incorporated into base claim 1, and claims 3 and 21 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 14 have been amended to overcome the objections applied to the claims, to place all elements in non-means-plus-function format, and for clarity.

In light of these amendments, it is submitted that the rejections applied against claims 1, 2, 8, 14, and 21 are overcome, and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4-14 is deemed to be warranted.

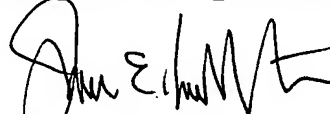
The specification has been amended to overcome the objections thereto.

Non-elected claims 15-20 are canceled without prejudice to the filing of a possible divisional application.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

Date: November 17, 2006  
JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L8612.03102  
STEVENS DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.  
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850  
P.O. Box 34387  
Washington, D.C. 20043-4387  
Telephone: (202) 785-0100  
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200